

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle recognizes the arts, in all of their diversity, help nurture the whole person and sustain healthy, livable communities; and

WHEREAS, Seattle is recognized for its innovation, creativity and learning institutions, yet all students do not have access to quality arts education in our public schools; and

WHEREAS, arts participation and training – in the classroom and out of school – are proven to develop critical thinking skills, imagination, creativity, and cross-cultural understanding – all capacities that are critical to success in 21st century life; and

WHEREAS, the arts are fundamental to a complete education and important to nurturing Seattle's next generation of innovative citizens; and

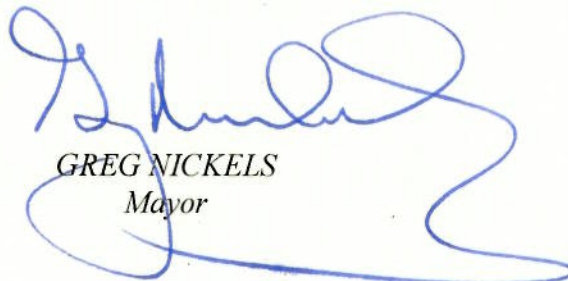
WHEREAS, the Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs is working with a wide range of partners, including Seattle Public Schools, Seattle Arts Commission, teachers, parents, artists, arts organizations and community members to bring the arts into the lives and learning of all Seattle youth; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Education Partnership Initiative – a multi-year effort between the City of Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs and Seattle Public Schools – was launched in 2008 to bring the arts back in education for all students in the school district;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREGORY J. NICKELS, Mayor of the City of Seattle, proclaim May 2009 to be

ARTS EDUCATION MONTH

and I hereby urge citizens to join me in commending the dedicated arts educators and advocates, and call for school and community leaders to continue to strengthen their commitment to meet the goal of "Arts for Every Student."



GREG NICKELS
Mayor